

What is claimed is:

1. A method for control of task execution in a computer system including:  
accepting a specification of a graphical representation of task dependency having  
a plurality of task elements each associated with a different task,  
a resource element having a plurality of attachment locations, and  
linking elements coupling the task elements to the resource element at the  
plurality of attachment locations, wherein couplings of task  
elements to attachment locations on the resource element specify  
an execution ordering constraint on the tasks associated with the  
task elements.
2. The method of claim 1 further including:  
executing the tasks according to the graphical representation of task dependency.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the task elements comprise nodes in the graphical  
representation, and the linking elements comprise links in the graphical representation.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the resource element comprises a timeline with  
the attachment locations being associated with points on the timeline.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the resource element is associated with a  
computation resource for access by the tasks.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein the computation resource includes a storage  
resource.
7. The method of claim 5 wherein the computation resource includes a data table.
8. A data structure stored on a computer readable medium, the data structure  
including:

data representations of a plurality of task elements,  
data representations of a plurality of attachment locations, and  
data associating the task elements to the attachment locations, wherein  
associations of task elements to attachment locations specify an ordering  
constraint on tasks associated with the task elements.

9. The data structure of claim 8 wherein the data structure is associated with a resource.

10. The data structure of claim 8 wherein the resource is associated with a computation resource for access by the tasks.

11. The data structure of claim 10 wherein the computation resource includes a storage resource.

12. The data structure of claim 10 wherein the computation resource includes a data table.

13. A task execution system including:

a repository including data conforming to a data model, the data model including  
a plurality of task elements each associated with a different task,  
a resource element having a plurality of attachment locations, and  
linking elements coupling the task elements to the resource element at the  
plurality of attachment locations, wherein couplings of task  
elements to attachment locations on the resource element specify  
an execution ordering constraint on the tasks associated with the  
task elements, and  
a task execution module, having access to the repository, configured to execute  
the tasks according to the graphical representation of task dependency.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein the task elements comprise nodes in the graphical representation, and the linking elements comprise links in the graphical representation.

15. The system of claim 13 wherein the resource element comprises a timeline with the attachment locations being associated with points on the timeline.

16. The system of claim 13 wherein the resource element is associated with a computation resource for access by the tasks.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein the computation resource includes a storage resource.

18. The system of claim 16 wherein the computation resource includes a data table.

19. A task execution system including:

means for accepting a specification of a graphical representation of task dependency having

a plurality of task elements each associated with a different task,

a resource element having a plurality of attachment locations, and

linking elements coupling the task elements to the resource element at the plurality of attachment locations, wherein couplings of task elements to attachment locations on the resource element specify an execution ordering constraint on the tasks associated with the task elements, and

means for executing the tasks according to the graphical representation of task dependency.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the task elements comprise nodes in the graphical representation, and the linking elements comprise links in the graphical representation.

21. The system of claim 19 wherein the resource element comprises a timeline with the attachment locations being associated with points on the timeline.

22. The system of claim 19 wherein the resource element is associated with a computation resource for access by the tasks.
23. The system of claim 22 wherein the computation resource includes a storage resource.
24. The system of claim 22 wherein the computation resource includes a data table.
25. A method for control of task execution in a computer system including:
  - accepting a specification of a graphical representation of task dependency having
    - a plurality of task elements each associated with a different task,
    - a resource element, and
    - linking elements coupling the task elements to the resource element at a plurality of attachment locations, in a time-ordered sequence
  - defining an execution ordering constraint on the tasks associated with the task elements, and
  - executing the tasks according to the graphical representation of task dependency.